

REGULATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO FERTILIZERS, FEEDS, NURSERY STOCK, OR SEEDS DISTRIBUTED BY AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16 (legislative day, DECEMBER 15), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. THOMAS of Oklahoma, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1421]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1421) making certain regulations with reference to fertilizers, feeds, nursery stock, or seeds that may be distributed by agencies of the United States, after having considered the same, report thereon favorably with the recommendation that the bill do pass with the following amendments:

On page 2, line 5, after "*Provided*", insert the following:

That all costs of any such inspection shall be added to the costs of such distribution by such officers, employees, or agents by whom distribution is made, and any amounts so collected as costs of inspection shall be paid by such officers, employees, and agents to the proper authority of such State: *And provided further,*

On page 2, line 8, strike out the word "*valid*".

The purpose of the foregoing amendment is to provide for the collection of fees by the States wherein fertilizers, feeds, nursery stock, or seeds are distributed by agencies of the United States. Under the amendment the inspection fees shall be collected by the Federal agents making distribution, then charged as costs, and afterward paid over to the State governments.

An explanation of the bill is contained in Senate Report No. 389, which accompanied H. R. 1396, a similar bill. The report is attached hereto and titled "Exhibit A" as follows:

EXHIBIT A

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1396) making certain regulations with reference to fertilizers or seeds that may be distributed by agencies of the United States, after having considered the same, report thereon favorably with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

An explanation of the bill is contained in House Report No. 407, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

[H. Rept. No. 407, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

"COMPLIANCE WITH STATE INSPECTION LAWS

"STATEMENT

"This legislation is necessitated by the reason that the Department of Agriculture, through certain of its agencies, is not complying with the State laws with reference to inspection of livestock and poultry feed, nursery stock, seeds, fertilizer, fertilizer materials, and other chemicals and elements which are used on the soil. The various States have State inspection laws designed to protect the farmers against inferior materials.

"The Department of Agriculture and various agencies of the Government have failed to comply with these State laws and in some instances questioned the right of having them comply therewith.

"This legislation authorizes and directs all agencies of the United States Government to comply with such inspection laws. This will enable them to comply with the State inspection laws and pay the necessary inspection fees.

"Heretofore fertilizers have been distributed which were not properly inspected and the farmer had no way of knowing whether he obtained the proper material or not, and a failure to furnish proper fertilizer oftentimes results in crop failures. The Department of Agriculture has also furnished certain seeds which, by reason of improper inspection, have been inferior in quality and failed to germinate.

"The various commissioners of agriculture from various States in all sections of the United States have approved this legislation and urged its passage. A committee representing the National Association of Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of Agriculture, as well as several individual commissioners, appeared before the House Committee on Agriculture in favor of this legislation."

Hearings were held on H. R. 1396 before the Agriculture and Forestry Committee and will be made available to the Members of the Senate at any time.

